

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

¹ ~~3.~~ (Previously Amended) An isolated DNA, comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

² ~~5.~~ (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA which comprises a vector and the DNA according to ~~claims 3 or 4~~ ¹ claim 2.

³ ~~6.~~ (Original) A transformant obtained by introducing the recombinant DNA according to claim ² ~~5~~ into a host cell.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled)

⁴ ~~10.~~ (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;~~

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and ~~DNA which~~ hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ under stringent conditions;

using said oligonucleotides in a reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

⁵ 11. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a the nucleotide sequence complementary to ~~DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and ~~DNA which~~ hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ under stringent conditions;

using said oligonucleotide in a Northern blot to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of
said Northern blot.

Claims 12-29 (Cancelled)